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COPPER-ORE MINING AND COPPER PRODUCTION PROBLEMS IN THE GDR (3 pp; German; [redacted])

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This document [redacted] from Fritz Selbmann, Minister of Metallurgy and Ore-Mining, to Rau, Deputy Minister-President and Chairman of the State Planning Commission. In order that the possible copper-ore yield and copper production for 1955 can be determined, Selbmann requested Rau to study the following problems and to decide upon measures to be taken:

In accordance with the Five-Year Plan, the 1955 quota amounts to 2.65 million tons for copper ore and 52,900 tons for electrolytic and refined copper. Since a copper-scrap stock of 26,500 tons has been estimated, of which 10,000 tons will be used for the production of semifinished copper and copper-alloy products, copper sulfate, etc., only 16,500 tons will be available to meet the quota for refined and electrolytic copper. Thus, from the 2.65 million tons of copper ore scheduled to be mined, the copper yield will have to amount to 36,100 tons, or about 13.73 kilograms of copper per ton of copper ore, in order that the 1955 plan quota ~~for~~ ^{output from} electrolytic and refined copper can be met.

The 1955 plan figure for the copper-ore ~~production~~ ^{output from} the Mansfeld and Sangerhausen deposits has been increased from 1.5 million to 1.8 million tons, because a total yield of only 850,000 tons of sand ore and other ore from deposits to be newly opened up can be expected. A number of prerequisites for this increase in copper-ore output are listed, such as increased mechanization in mining techniques. Since the copper yield from the ore to be mined at Sangerhausen and Mansfeld is estimated at 19,300 tons for 1955, or 10.7 kilograms per ton of copper ore, 17,100 tons of copper (or 20.12 kilograms per ton of copper ore) would have to be obtained from the 850,000 tons of copper ore scheduled to be mined at other deposits (to arrive at the above-mentioned figure of 36,100 tons of copper from the planned total mine output of 2.65 million tons of copper ore).

The serious difficulties involved in the possibilities of achieving the above outputs are discussed, and a number of steps to be taken to aid in solving the problems are outlined. These steps include: a) conclusion of prospecting work by the Geological Commission by the end of 1952, so that new copper-ore deposits can be ~~determined~~ ^{located} and the preparatory work for the opening up of new mines can be started early in 1953; b) reduction of the 1955 plan figure from 52,900 tons to 35,100 tons of electrolytic and refined copper until such time as the additional copper yield from the new copper-ore deposits can be determined; after the latter estimate has been arrived at, the 1955 plan figure of 35,100 tons can be increased accordingly, and will constitute the official Five-Year Plan figure.

Foreign language document or microfilm of it (No. A-12485) is available from CIA Library, ext. [redacted]

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